

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02
USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04
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FOR EB/ORF/ICD WENDT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO U.S. STATEMENT AT COMMON FUND CONFERENCE

1. THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT, GROUP OF 77 AND MOST GROUP B DELEGATES HAVE REACTED POSITIVELY TO MARCH 10 U.S. STATEMENT AT COMMON FUND CONFERENCE PLENARY, VIEWING IT AS A POSITIVE INDICATION OF A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM POLICY OF PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF A COMMON FUND. A NUMBER OF G-77 AND GROUP B DELEGATES TOLD US THEY VIEWED THE U.S. STATEMENT AS MUCH MORE POSITIVE THAN THE EC-9 PLENARY STATEMENT, WHICH THEY THOUGHT WAS TOO GENERAL AND VAGUE. THE G-77 ALSO OFFICIALLY RESPONDED IN PLENARY MARCH 15 TO U.S. AND OTHER STATEMENTS, WHICH WE REPORTING SEPTEL. REACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL DELEGATES ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. GROUP OF 77. USDEL UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR STATEMENT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE AFRICAN GROUP, WHICH CONSIDERS IT VERY SIGNIFICANT. THE AFRICANS THINK OUR STATEMENT REPRESENTS A CHANGE OF POLICY, AND ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT IT WILL MEAN IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC DETAILS. THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR, GENERALLY REGARDED AS MEMBER OF THE EXTREMIST GROUP IN THE G-77, TOLD US HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE U.S. STATEMENT INDICATED A NEW AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON A COMMON FUND. VENEZUELAN, INDONESIAN, SAUDI AND PHILIPPINE DELEGATES, ALSO TOLD US THEY WELCOMED THE CONSTRUCTIVE TONE OF OUR STATEMENT. ALGERIAN

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REP SAID HE REGARDED OUR STATEMENT AS "FORTHCOMING" AND REPRESENTING A MAJOR CHANGE IN POLICY.

3. GROUP B. WELCOMING OUR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONFERENCE, MOST OTHER GROUP B DELEGATES HAVE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO OUR STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH THIS IS COMBINED IN SOME CASES WITH A DEGREE OF NERVOUSNESS ABOUT HOW QUICKLY AND IN WHAT DIRECTION THE U.S. MIGHT BE MOVING ON THE COMMON FUND ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE UK, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND CANADA HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FINDING THEMSELVES IN A POSITION TO THE RIGHT OF THE U.S. SOME ALSO SEEM UNEASY ABOUT FURTHER POSSIBLE NEW INITIATIVES IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT MEETING, WHICH THEY EXPECT MIGHT BE ALONG THE LINES OF UNDERSECRETARY COOPER'S REMARKS AT THE OECD IN PARIS TWO WEEKS AGO. (WE HAVE PRIVATELY ATTEMPTED TO INDICATE TO KEY DELEGATES THAT OUR POSITIVE AND OPEN-MINDED ATTITUDE DOES NOT PRESAGE MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS ON A COMMON FUND DURING THIS MEETING). THE NORDIC DELEGATIONS DESCRIBED OUR STATEMENT AS FORTHCOMING, AND THE SWEDES, IN PARTICULAR, FELT THAT IT REPRESENTED A POLICY BREAK-THROUGH WHICH WENT BEYOND THE EC-9 BOTH IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE. NORWEGIANS TOLD US THAT U.S. STATEMENT GAVE US THE INITIATIVE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE FUTURE COURSE OF COMMON FUND DISCUSSIONS. THE DUTCH, IN MORE RESTRAINED FASHION, SIMPLY NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAS MADE SOME MOVEMENT ON THE COMMON FUND QUESTION.

4. UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL COREA TOLD US DEL THAT HE WELCOMED STATEMENT AND THAT HE HAD PARTICULARLY NOTED THAT LINK BETWEEN FUND AND ONGOING INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS MORE TENUOUS THAN EARLIER U.S. POSITIONS. WITH U.S. STATEMENT NOW ON THE TABLE, HE AND CHIDZERO AND CHADHA OF SECRETARIAT TOLD US, MAJOR REMAINING OBSTACLE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND WAS NOW THE WEST GERMANS. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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